

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-10 and add new claims 11 - 13 as follows:

1. (original) A dielectric composition comprising a mixture of :

a ceramic composition containing  $Ba_aRE_bTi_cO_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

B2 a glass composition comprising  $SiO_2$ , a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% by weight with respect to the glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of  $Li_2O$  and  $TiO_2$ , and

a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition.

2. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metal oxide in the dielectric composition is an oxide of a metal chosen from the group consisting of magnesium, zinc, copper, manganese, cobalt, iron, nickel, erbium, holmium, indium, dysprosium, tungsten and yttrium.

3. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the further metal oxide in the glass composition is  $Li_2O$ .

4. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the glass composition essentially consists of 50-80% by weight of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 5-25% by weight of ~~at least one alkaline earth metal oxide including MgO~~, and 10-25% by weight of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , ~~and in that it wherein said composition~~ is substantially free from boron.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bivalent metal oxide in the glass composition is  $\text{ZnO}$ , and ~~in that the~~ further metal oxide is  $\text{Ti}_2\text{O}$ .

7. (currently amended) A dielectric composition as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the glass composition is present in an amount of 3 to 5% by weight with respect to the ceramic composition.

8. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic multilayer element comprising the steps of;

manufacturing a multilayer stack comprising a first ceramic foil, a first electrode comprising Cu, a second ceramic foil, and a second electrode comprising Cu, which ceramic foils are manufactured from a dielectric composition comprising a ceramic composition and a glass composition comprising  $\text{SiO}_2$ , which ceramic

composition contains  $Ba_aRE_bTi_cO_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , the ceramic composition being free from lead and bismuth; and

sintering the multilayer stack,

characterized in that wherein

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the glass composition contains a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% weight with respect to the glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from a group consisting of  $Li_2O$  and  $TiO_2$ ,

the dielectric composition further contains a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition, and

the multilayer stack is sintered at a temperature of between 900 and 1080 °C and in an atmosphere which is non-oxidizing for Cu.

9. (currently amended) An electronic device comprising a first dielectric ceramic layer, a first electrode comprising Cu, and a second electrode, characterized in that wherein the first dielectric ceramic layer is a sintered body comprising;

a ceramic composition containing  $Ba_aRE_bTi_cO_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with  $0.05 \leq a \leq 0.25$ ,  $0.525 \leq b \leq 0.70$ ,  $0.85 \leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

a glass composition comprising  $SiO_2$ , a bivalent metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of MgO and ZnO and at least 10% by weight with respect to the

glass composition of a further metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$ , and

a metal oxide which is different from the bivalent metal oxide present in the glass composition.

10. (currently amended) An electronic device as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that wherein the first dielectric ceramic layer is present as a substrate.

11. (new) A dielectric composition comprising a mixture of :

a ceramic composition containing  $\text{Ba}_a\text{RE}_b\text{Ti}_c\text{O}_3$ , wherein RE represents a rare earth element, with 0.05  $\leq a \leq 0.25$ , 0.525  $\leq b \leq 0.70$ , 0.85  $\leq c \leq 1.0$ , and  $2a + 3b + 4c = 6$ , and free from lead and bismuth,

a glass composition, essentially free from boron, comprising  $\text{SiO}_2$ , a first metal oxide, and at least 10% by weight with respect to the glass composition of a second metal oxide chosen from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$ , and

a metal oxide which is different from the metal oxide present in the glass composition.

12. (new) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 11 wherein said first metal oxide is an oxide of an alkaline earth metal.

13. (new) A dielectric composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein said alkaline earth

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metal oxide is MgO.

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